

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-02

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R 230928Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3895

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0451

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG EG MO SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: RIAD "MEDIATION"

REF: ALGIERS 0063

1. PRESS FEB 20 CARRIES BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN RIAD'S ARRIVAL IN ALGIERS. COMMERCE MINISTER YAKER GREETED RIAD AT AIRPORT, AND LATTER MADE BRIEF STATEMENT THAT HE HERE "IN FRAMEWORK OF CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEW RELATIVE TO PROBLEMS WHICH AFFECT ARAB WORLD." MIDDAY RADIO NEWS FEB 20 DID NOT MENTION VISIT.

2. IN CONVERSION FEB 19, ALGERIAN FORMIN OFFICIAL WAXED QUITE VITRIOLIC RE RIAD VISIT. OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT RIAD HERE PERSONALLY, NOT AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAB LEAGUE, AND THAT HE APPARENTLY HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS TO MAKE. COUNSELING MODERATION, OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED, WAS SIMPLY NOT GOOD ENOUGH AT THIS JUNCTURE IN SAHARA DISPUTE. IN OFFICIAL'S VIEW, RIAD WOULD HAVE
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DONE BETTER TO VISIT MOROCCO BEFORE COMING TO ALGERIA SINCE IT WAS

GOM WHICH CAUSING SAHARA PROBLEM. OFFICIAL REFERRED TO PRESS COMMENTARY EARLIER IN WEEK TO EFFECT THAT ONLY SORT OF MEDIATION THAT WOULD SUCCEED WOULD BE BETWEEN POLISARIO AND MOROCCO. THIS, OFFICICW SAID, WAS GOA'S POSITION ON MATTER.

3. COMMENT: WOULD BE MISTAKE TO JUDGE GOA POLICY ENTIRELY ON BASIS OF OFFICIAL PRESS COMMENTARY AND "RECORDED MESSAGES" GIVEN US FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES. WE DOUBT THAT ALGERIANS HAVE ABANDONED ALL CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE DEAL OVER SAHARA.

4. FOR SHORT TERM, HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT ALGERIANS WILL WISH TO AWAIT POSSIBLE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FROM RYDBECK MISSION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE NEWS REPORTS THAT SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA PLANS TO MEET WALDHEIM IN GENEVA SOON.

5. THUS, WE INCLINED TO DOUBT RIAD WILL GET VERY FAR ON THIS TRIP.
PARKER

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04 MAY 2006

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